

# CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

## HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program. The House Fellows Program, run by the Office of the House Historian, is a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education American history and government teachers to experience firsthand the inner-workings of Congress. These educators have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, are dedicated to educating our Nation's youth and are truly deserving of our recognition.

One of the goals of the House Fellows Program is to develop curriculum on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. During the program, fellows prepare a brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, which is then shared with the other fellows. These plans will become part of a larger teaching resource database on the House. During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow is responsible for presenting his or her experience and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

The House Fellows Program began in 2006, and since then 75 teachers from across the country have participated in this innovative program.

An additional 45 teachers will be taking part in this summer's program. With plans to select a teacher from every Congressional district over the next several years, the House Fellows Program will impact thousands of high school teachers and their students and will energize thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

As a former U.S. history teacher, I believe strongly in the importance of civic education. We must continue our efforts to get our youth involved in the political process in districts across the country. Educating teachers about the "People's House" is one of the best ways to do that. I congratulate the following educators who are participating in the 1st session of this summer's 2010 House Fellows Program:

Ms. Katherine Brantley (Ruppersberger, MD-02), Mr. Brian Rock (Pallone, NJ-06), Ms. Elizabeth Murphy (Payne, NJ-10), Ms. Esme Scott (Price, NC-04), Mr. Charles Zappa (Serrano, NY-16), Mr. Nate Cole (Serrano, NY-16), Mr. John Burns (Pastor, AZ-04), Mr. Darios Felix (Rohrabacher, CA-46), Mr. Roy Greenland (Goodlatte, VA-06), Mr. Duane Baker (Hoekstra, MI-02), Ms. Laura Howard (Kingston, GA-01), Mr. Daniel Hayden (King, NY-03), Mr. Randy 'Scotty' Hicks (Duncan, TN-02), Ms. Mary Helen Story (Duncan, TN-02) and Mr. Timothy Rodman (Bartlett, MD-06).

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Thanks to Dr. Robert Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler for their outstanding leadership, and Dr. Thomas Rushford, Mr. Anthony Wallis and Mr. Benjamin Hayes for providing the crucial staff support.

Thank you also to the Office of the Historian interns: Ms. Jacqueline Burns, Mr. Michael Karlik, Ms. Madeleine Rosenberg and Ms. Debbie Kobrin.

BENJAMIN R. DECOSTA, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

## HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great public servant of Metro Atlanta and the international aviation community.

For 12 years, Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta has led the City of Atlanta's Aviation Department and successfully managed Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport—the world's busiest passenger airport. Located in my congressional district, this outstanding internationally-recognized transportation center employs more than 56,000 people and generates more than 400,000 jobs and \$23.5 billion in Metro Atlanta's economy. Recently, Mr. DeCosta announced that he will be leaving Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

I am proud to have known and worked with Mr. DeCosta for over a decade. Whenever I call Ben and his staff about national aviation policy issues and the impact on Hartsfield-Jackson—I could always expect an honest, thorough, and researched answer. Ben successfully led the effort to open a 5th runway, the Maynard H. Jackson, Jr. International terminal, a consolidated rental car center, and upgrades to the central passenger terminal complex. He also managed to award almost 40 percent of contracts that were part of this \$6 billion capital improvement initiative to women- and minority-owned businesses.

Consumed with improving customer service and setting higher standards for passengers, Ben has led the airport's team in making the entire experience smoother for those traveling, to, from, and through Hartsfield-Jackson. For example, we worked together to improve the security screening processes at the airport. Now the passenger wait times average less than 10 minutes; the lines may be long, but they move. He also brought numerous retailers to the airport; on both sides of the security check points, you can find great food and shopping for whatever your needs may be while you wait.

It has not been easy; many would have walked away a long time ago. Somehow, Ben rose to the challenge. The aviation community took notice of his successes. Last year, the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) recognized him as the recipient of the 2009 prestigious National Leadership Award. In 2007, Airport Revenue Magazine voted him Best Director. Under his leadership, Hartsfield-Jackson was recognized as the World's Most Efficient Airport for three consecutive years, the world's top airport with Wi-Fi connectivity, and the Executive Traveler's Best Large U.S. airport.

Ben came to Atlanta from New York where he worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and served as the general manager of Newark International Airport. He earned a physics undergraduate degree from

Queens College and a Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School, and continued his studies as part of a senior executive program for local and state governments at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

I would like to thank Mr. DeCosta for his service, dedication and success to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and the Metro Atlanta community. I wish him and his family continued success and happiness in the next chapter of his great career.

THE TATEUCHI FOUNDATION

## HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in 2006, the fundraising campaign for Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE) began in earnest and a new performing arts center is set to open in 2013 in my District—Washington's 8th. The PACE campaign just received a \$25 million gift from the Tateuchi Foundation, and a renewed life has been breathed into a campaign for cultural vibrancy, economic vitality, and artistic expression.

Madam Speaker, the generosity of the Tateuchi Foundation to the PACE campaign is nothing short of phenomenal. For its incredible gift, the Foundation received the naming rights of the performing arts center. Therefore, it will now be known as the Tateuchi Center, and I'm extremely pleased to see the campaign receive such a significant boost.

The spirit of giving and philanthropy is alive and well, Madam Speaker. This extraordinary gift has reminded our community that belief in unique and worthwhile entertainment and art is essential to a vibrant community. The realization of a state-of-the-art performing arts center in the 8th District will provide jobs and enhance the quality of life and cultural infrastructure of the entire Puget Sound region. According to recent studies, the Tateuchi Center will have a \$470 million impact on King County over the next decade and will generate \$70 million in new tax revenues for federal, state, county and city governments. Beyond that, Madam Speaker, a unique, exciting venue like the Tateuchi Center will help businesses in the Puget Sound region—such as Microsoft—continue to recruit top talent and excel in a highly desirable area.

The campaign to bring a one-of-a-kind performing arts center to the 8th District is driven by the desire to transform lives and enrich the community by presenting artistic, cultural, educational, and entertainment experiences of the highest quality for everyone. The momentous gift of the Tateuchi Foundation is helping make that desire a reality. The overall fundraising goal will be reached, and that's a testament to civic pride, business leadership, and the public good. Madam Speaker, I thank the leaders of the campaign to bring the arts to the 8th District. And of course, I join my constituents in thanking the Tateuchi Foundation for its generosity. The continued dedication to this cause is remarkable and worthwhile.

Madam Speaker, even in this difficult economic time, the Tateuchi Center campaign demonstrates that the desire for artistic expression is as limitless as the expression itself.